



Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 95381266

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 1 Month(s)

Date of Death: 06/04/2018

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entitled to the child's possession.

Child's Name: Daugherty, Brooklyn R

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/05/2018

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The agency received a report stating that the six week old deceased child was found deceased in her crib by the child's mother and father in the morning. It was reported that she had died during the night, possibly from sudden infant death syndrome. The report stated that the deceased child had tested positive for cystic fibrosis on a newborn screening and was negative on a second test that was performed. The report stated that the deceased child's mother and father took the deceased child to the doctor for another test on the day before her death, and the deceased child was not gaining weight. The test result from the latest doctor's appointment were not yet available.

Investigation Findings:

Upon investigation, the deceased child's father reported that he had gone to the child's crib to get her up for testing at the hospital and found that she was not breathing or moving. Emergency services was contacted and they tried to revive the child but they could not. When the deceased child was two to three weeks old, she had a broken leg. The father reported that the family's dog had jumped up on the child and had knocked her to the ground. The child's leg was set in a cast and she was to receive follow up medical treatment for the leg the next week following her death. A CPS case regarding the child's broken leg was opened at this time. It was recommended that a parenting class be taken by the mother and father. They had not taken the class yet. The deceased child's father reported that the child bruised easily and the child's doctors were concerned that this may be related to cystic fibrosis. The child was not gaining weight and the parents were keeping a feeding log on the child. The deceased child's mother said that the night before discovering the deceased child, she and the child's father slept through the entire night. A review of the child's mother's text messages indicated she was awake and texting a friend during the night.

According to the preliminary results of the autopsy, the child died from blunt force trauma to the skull and she had several rib fractures. There were bruises to the child's face, head, and behind her right ear.

Additionally she had a skull fracture and a subdural hemorrhage. The child's father stated that during the 2 weeks prior to the child's death, he took care of her most of the time while the child's mother was at work.

Prior to that, the child's mother took care of the child while the child's father was working.

The investigator spoke to several collaterals who had no concerns of abuse or neglect regarding the child's parents.

The child's primary care physician stated she did not have any concerns of abuse or neglect. Her major concern was the child possibly having cystic fibrosis and slow weight gain. The child's physician had scheduled a sweat test for the child to rule out the cystic fibrosis. The child died on the day of her scheduled test.

The child's mother and father were not offered services as their only child died. The mother's three other children are in the custody of their father and she only has supervised visits as per court order.

Law Enforcement did investigate and reported that their homicide investigation is on hold pending the results of the final autopsy. No charges had yet been filed at the time the case was closed.

The allegations of physical abuse of the deceased child by the deceased child's mother and father were confirmed. The preliminary autopsy results revealed that the child died from blunt force trauma to the skull and she had several other rib fractures. The child's parents were the only caregivers for the child. The child's primary care physician was concerned about the child possibly having cystic fibrosis, however, she stated that cystic fibrosis would not have caused rib fractures or blunt force trauma to the child's head.

The allegations of neglectful supervision of the deceased child by the child's mother and father was not confirmed. The deceased child's mother and father reported that they alternated caring for the child when the other was working and there were no other caregivers for the child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

A SDM Safety and Risk Assessment were not required in this investigation as the only child in the household died.

Case Action: only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family: None

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The deceased child's mother has three other children who reside with their biological father. The biological father of the child's half siblings filed for custody to be modified. The biological father of the child's half siblings was granted temporary sole managing conservatorship and the child's mother has supervised visitation.

If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship: NA

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):05/27/2018

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The agency received a report stating that the deceased child appeared with a small bruise on her right cheek an inch below the right eye that was one quarter of an inch long and green in color, a bluish colored bruise to the right eyelid that was on the outside corner eyelid, a petechial hemorrhage that was to the left eye that was noticeably red on the inside corner. The bruises appeared to be recent. The report stated that when the deceased child's mother and father were questioned, they reported that they did not know how the deceased child sustained the bruises. The report stated that there were further concerns that the child was recently taken to hospital for a broken or displaced hip or leg resulting in the child being placed in a sling.

Investigation Findings:

During the investigation, the deceased child's mother said that she was preparing to go to the store and placed the deceased child on a pillow on the mother's bed. She stepped out of the room and the child's father came into the house with a dog. The dog ran into her room and jumped onto the bed, knocking the child off the bed, and the child plopped onto the floor landing on her leg. The child did not land on her head. The child's mother stated that the child's father checked her and did not see any marks or signs of injury. She reported that the family then went to the store. When they returned back home, the child's father changed the child's diaper and noticed that her leg was swollen. The child's mother stated that they took the child to the hospital immediately. The child's mother stated that the child was kept overnight and was discharged the next day with her leg in a wrap. The child was diagnosed with a right femur fracture. The child had a full body x-ray and no other injuries were found. The mother stated that the child was referred to another doctor who put a brace on the child's leg a few days later. Another follow up appointment was scheduled for June 7, 2018 however the child passed away before that appointment. In regards to the bruises, the child's mother said that the child had a Vitamin D deficiency according to the doctor and supplemental Vitamin D drops were recommended. The investigator spoke to the child's father and he confirmed the mother's explanation of the injuries. The investigator spoke to several collaterals who had no concerns of abuse or neglect about the child's parents. The investigator spoke with the child's pediatrician who confirmed that she observed the child prior to death during her initial visit and the child did not have any bruising. The doctor stated that the child was brought in by the child's mother and father after the child had a broken leg. The doctor reported she was concerned about a positive newborn screening for cystic fibrosis and the child having slow weight gain. A follow-up test was completed on the child and she was negative for cystic fibrosis. The child's doctor reported that the child was negative for cystic fibrosis on a second test. The child's doctor reported that the child was brought in again and the child had a bruise on her cheekbone area and a slight mark on the chin.

According to law enforcement, they will be pursuing criminal charges due to the eventual death of the child, inconsistent statements by the child's parents, telephone and text messages, and the preliminary cause of death of blunt force trauma and manner of death homicide. Charges had not been filed at the closing of the child fatality case. The allegations of neglectful supervision and physical abuse of the deceased child by the deceased child's mother and father were confirmed. The child's mother and father provided statements that were not consistent with the injuries that the child sustained. The child's mother and father stated that a dog jumped onto the bed that the child was laying on and made the child fall onto the floor injuring her leg. The child's mother and father stated that the child had marks due to her having a Vitamin D deficiency and bruising easily. The child eventually died during the investigation. The preliminary autopsy results show that the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head and manner of death is homicide. There were no other caregivers for the child leading up to the child's death.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

SDM Safety Assessment: 05/29/2018 Initial - Safe

SDM Risk Assessment: 07/09/2018 - Moderate

Services Provided and Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

It was recommended that the deceased child's mother and father take parenting classes. While this investigation was still ongoing, the child died and the child fatality investigation was opened.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):12/30/2017

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The agency received a report stating that the deceased child's nine month old half sibling was visiting his mother and sustained a right humerus fracture. The fracture was discovered after the half sibling returned home. The report stated that the deceased child's mother had no explanation for this injury. The report stated that the half sibling's arm was placed in a sling.

Investigation Findings:

The father of the deceased child's half sibling picked up the children, ages nine months, twenty months, and three years old, from the deceased child's mother after a visitation and the nine month old half sibling appeared sick with a swollen arm and a bruise over the eye. The sibling's father stated when he took the nine month old half sibling's coat off, he noticed that the nine month old's arm appeared swollen and bruised. The sibling's father stated when he asked the mother about the arm, she stated that she did not know how the half sibling broke his arm. The mother told the sibling's father that the only thing she could come up with is that the half sibling broke it in between the bars on the bed. In regards to the bruise on the nine month old's eye, the mother stated it was from the albuterol that he takes for his breathing treatment. The sibling's father stated that the twenty month old had a bruise under her eye due to her playing a game and running into a dresser. The father stated that he has full custody of the three half siblings and the deceased child's mother has visitation.

The investigator interviewed the deceased child's three year old half sibling who denied knowing how the nine month old broke his arm. She denied any abuse or neglect.

The investigator interviewed the mother who stated that she was told that the nine month old's arm was not moving and it was swollen three hours after the half siblings were picked up by their father. She stated the nine month old was using both of his arms while he was at her home. She stated that she is unsure of what could have happened. The deceased child's father was interviewed and he reported he was out of town working but had a video of the **nine month old moving his arms** during his visit with the mother.

Personal, day care, and medical collaterals reported no concerns with the half siblings or the parents.

The allegation of neglectful supervision of the deceased child's nine month old half sibling by the child's mother could not be determined. The nine month old half sibling's arm was injured without an explanation as to how it occurred. The nine month old half sibling was visiting his mother and was picked up by his father who discovered that the nine month old's arm was swollen and bruised. The mother stated she did not know what happened. The nine month old's three year old sibling denied knowing what happened to the nine month old's arm. The investigator made several attempts to contact the reporter and calls were not returned. The **investigator spoke with medical staff at the hospital** and was told information could not be released even if a release of information form was provided.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

SDM Safety Assessment: 12/30/2017 - Initial: Safe with plan

SDM Safety Assessment: 03/15/2018 - Case Closure: Safe

SDM Risk Assessment: 03/20/2018 - Moderate

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services: An Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) referral was made for the nine month old.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

To mitigate additional risk, personal, day care, and medical collaterals were contacted and all agreed to monitor the family and report any concerns to the agency.

Note: This report was prepared on 07/08/2019 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.